

**For U.S. forces
serving abroad**

Stripes™



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Saturday, May 9, 1998

Eight pages

Military's greatest foe: the 'Millennium Bug'?

By Scripps Howard News Service
DENVER — Authorities are investigating whether the nation's strategic defense computers could malfunction because of the "Millennium Bug."

Some military computers are almost certain to fail after the clock strikes midnight on Jan. 1, 2000, said John Stephenson, who heads the study by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress.

In a report to Congress April 30, the GAO warned that "time is running out" to protect the military's 1.5 million computers.

"What you hope is that (defense officials) will start to apply triage," Stephenson said. "They should decide what their most important missions are and which systems support those missions and fix those first."

A top GAO priority is the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) in Colorado Springs, Colo., a facility that monitors America's nuclear defenses.

The installation at Cheyenne Mountain is the linchpin of strategic forces. Its computer-powered equipment can detect incoming enemy missiles.

The GAO also may review the satellite relay stations at Buckley Air Na-

tional Guard Base in Aurora, Colo. Those facilities track missile firings and nuclear explosions.

"We are looking at NORAD in terms of the integrated tactical attack assessment system," said Yvonne Vigil, an evaluator in the Denver regional GAO office.

Describing the complicated NORAD facility as the "system of all systems," Vigil said NORAD's computers must be bug-free because their mission is "to protect and safeguard the United States."

David Knox, a NORAD spokesman, said the facility should be free of the bug by the end of this year. He also said extensive contingency plans have been made in case some errant code remains.

"It is not surprising that the GAO has special interest because the mission we do is so critical to our national security," Knox said. "We're going to be as confident as we can be."

Already, a test has shown that the Department of Defense's Global Command Control System failed when the clock was pushed ahead to the year 2000. Deployed at 700 military installations worldwide, the GCCS is the key tool in battle management and planning.

Italy flood death toll up to 108

SARNO, Italy (AP) — As daylight broke today, rescue workers picked up digging with full force, after spending the quiet of the night listening for noises from any survivors possibly still buried under the rivers of mud that engulfed dozens of homes in this highly populated area.

The death toll stood at 108 after three days of rescue efforts, but civil protection officials in Sarno, the hardest-hit town, said more than 200 people likely still were buried.

"Unfortunately, the number feared missing continues to rise," said Piero Moscardini, coordinator of relief efforts in Sarno. "It has gone up from 210 to 230 to 240. It is impossible to come up with an exact figure."

During the night, a group of the 3,000 rescue workers on site continued digging in the dark with shovels and using their hands. Others listened for faint noises, voices, scratching or banging, in the hope of finding more survivors, especially after a 22-year-old photographer was hoisted alive from a well Friday after three days buried in mud and water.

Most of the sludge has been caked dry from three days of hot, sunny weather.

Tobacco industry to pay \$6.6 billion in suit

By Los Angeles Times

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Hours before a jury was to begin deliberations, the tobacco industry agreed Friday to pay \$6.6 billion to settle a massive lawsuit filed against it by the state of Minnesota and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota.

The industry also agreed to a landmark nationwide ban on the much-criticized practice of making payments to movie, television and video producers to feature smoking by actors in their productions.

The cigarette makers also agreed to dis-

band the Council for Tobacco Research, the industry arm that tobacco foes contend played a key role in suppressing the hazards of smoking and propagating disinformation over the past 40 years.

The 11th-hour accord marked the fourth time in the past year that the once-legally impregnable industry settled a suit lodged against it by a state attorney general. It brought the total value of the agreements to \$36 billion.

The state of Minnesota will get \$6.17 billion under the agreement and Blue

Cross/Blue Shield will receive \$469 million. In addition, the nation's cigarette companies will pay out \$440 million in attorney fees.

Friday's settlement is the third-largest court settlement in U.S. history — topped only by the \$11.3 billion the industry agreed to pay Florida and the \$15.3 billion it surrendered to settle Texas' suit.

Industry analysts said the tobacco industry settled for the higher amount out of fear the jury might award a huge punitive damages award.

5 instructors at naval boot camp charged

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. (AP) — Five naval instructors have been accused of sexual misconduct and having improper relationships with female recruits at the Navy's only boot camp.

One of the instructors accused was honored last year as the recruit division commander of the year at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, located in North Chicago, about 30 miles north of Chicago, the Chicago Tribune reported today.

Three of the cases already have been referred to a military court which hears cases that are less serious than those heard in regular courts-martial. Officials have not released the names of the accused.

Despite the latest allegations, naval officials contend male and female recruits can be trained together at the same base.

"I think it's a very good thing because we currently have a fleet that is operating successfully today with men and women working together as a team," said Rear Adm. Kevin P. Green, the Great Lakes commander.

Russian troops will join NATO exercise

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Russia has agreed to send ground troops to a NATO exercise for the first time, a significant step toward closer ties with the Atlantic alliance, a NATO official said Friday.

A platoon of about 30 to 35 Russian infantry will join Operation Cooperative Jaguar, a weeklong peacekeeping exercise in Denmark that begins May 18, the official said on customary anonymity.

The training is part of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, a 4-year-old collaboration with former East bloc nations including Russia. Some 3,000 troops from 17 countries, with more than 30 aircraft and 30-plus ships, will take part in Jaguar.

The Russian participation marks the first time Moscow has sent ground troops dedicated for combat, NATO officials said.

Russia has joined previous exercises on a more limited basis, for example with medical teams.

Sailor that Navy sought to oust due for promotion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sailor Timothy R. McVeigh is in line for promotion to the Navy's highest enlisted rank, only months after the service lost a court battle aimed at forcing his discharge on grounds of alleged homosexuality.

McVeigh, assigned to submarine duty in Hawaii, is on a list of those selected for master chief petty officer, a Navy official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Friday. Only 15 percent of those eligible for advancement are chosen, he said.

McVeigh, who is not related to the convicted Oklahoma City bomber of a similar name, was ordered dismissed in December on charges he is homosexual and engaged in sodomy. But he then filed and won a lawsuit blocking the action.

McVeigh, an 18-year Navy veteran

at age 36, has not commented on his sexuality.

McVeigh, now a senior chief petty officer, said Friday he had not been notified of the promotion. "If indeed it's true, then I'm obviously very happy," he said. "It opens other doors and gives me a chance to look around a little more." He said he will stay in the Navy at least 20 years.

Pentagon policy allows dismissal of someone who discloses he is gay, but the military cannot raise the issue without sufficient cause.

U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin ruled in January that the Navy went too far in investigating McVeigh, who was linked to an anonymous America Online Inc. computer profile page that suggested he had a sexual interest in young men.

VMI senior expelled in sex case

LEXINGTON, Va. (AP) — A senior at the Virginia Military Institute was kicked out of school just before final exams after he and a female exchange student were caught lying naked on a bed in the barracks.

The exchange student was among five women invited to VMI this year to counsel the first freshmen

women ever to enroll at VMI, which was all-male for 158 years. She was sent back to Norwich University in Northfield, Vt.

VMI withheld the names of the cadet and the woman. The incident was the third reported case of improper relations between genders in this first year of coeducation.

The cadet would have

begun his exams Monday and was scheduled to graduate May 16. He will not be allowed to return to VMI.

"This involved conduct which I will not tolerate in the barracks," VMI Superintendent Josiah Bunting III said in a statement.

The school has a long-standing ban on sexual contact on campus.

Hubbell pleads not guilty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing a new round of legal woes, Whitewater figure Webster Hubbell pleaded innocent Friday to conspiring to evade taxes on hundreds of thousands of dollars of income, some of it arranged by friends of President Clinton. Hubbell's wife and two of his close friends from Arkansas declared their innocence as well.

"Not guilty, your honor," the former associate attorney general said in a clear voice at his arraignment before U.S. District Judge James Robertson, a Clinton appointee.

Hubbell's wife, Suzy, tax lawyer Charles Owen and accountant Mike Schaefe followed Hubbell and entered innocent pleas.

Stripes

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Bill pushes Bosnia drawdown

By Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two lawmakers introduced a bill in the Senate on Wednesday that would direct a phased drawdown of U.S. troops in Bosnia to no more than 2,500 in less than two years.

The bill calls for reducing U.S. ground troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina to 5,000 by February 1999 and to 3,500 by July 1999.

By February 2000, the number would drop to 2,500, the approximate number of troops committed to the mission by Germany and France.

The bill would allow any troops withdrawn from Bosnia to be redeployed to peripheral locations in the Balkans, such as Hungary and Macedo-

nia.

Sens. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., and Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, sponsors of the bill, said it's designed to prod the Clinton administration into moving faster to bring "closure" to the Bosnia mission within a reasonable time frame.

"This administration seems not to work very effectively except under the pressure of explicit deadlines and an explicit schedule with specific numbers, dates and goals," said Byrd, the senior Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Clinton recently announced plans to draw down U.S. forces in Bosnia to 6,900 by the end

of June, when the current Stabilization Force mission will end, and the next phase of the now-indefinite peacekeeping effort begins. The administration opposes mandated withdrawal dates from Bosnia.

But with no set exit strategy, "the pressure is off our allies to pick up more of the leading role," Byrd said. "Our allies are perfectly content to keep the United States spending some \$1.8 billion a year on this operation."

Hutchison, who just returned from her seventh trip to Bosnia, said U.S. forces there have accomplished the military mission assigned to them, but now have "no clear direction" and suffer from declining morale.

Bad water found near U.K. bases

By Stars and Stripes

DOWNHAM MARKET, England — The drinking water of more than 80,000 people living near three U.S. Air Force bases in England is contaminated with a parasite, officials discovered this week.

Consumers must boil the water up to 10 minutes to make it safe for consumption, they said.

Thus far, officials at RAF Lakenheath, Mildenhall and Feltwell said water supplies at those bases have not been infected. Still, British water officials estimate that several hundred Americans live in communities where the outbreak is present.

The boil-water alert might remain in effect for some time.

"It could be next week or a few weeks. It may even take longer before we get

word that the water is clear," said Marisa Johnson, a spokeswoman for the Office of Water Services in Cambridge. "We don't know the scale of the problem as yet."

The culprit is a parasite called cryptosporidium. The parasite is found on farmland and in rivers and streams. It also lives on farm and domestic animals.

Officials in East Anglia warned late Wednesday that a water treatment center discovered the parasite during a routine inspection. A spokesman for Anglian Water Co., which serves more than 500,000 customers in the region, said the parasite "is very common and gets into the water supply when it rains."

Johnson said the parasite can enter the water supply a number of ways, including through leaking water pipes.

War crimes tribunal drops charges against 14 Bosnian Serbs

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal announced Friday it has dropped charges against 14 Bosnian Serbs accused of beating, raping and killing Muslim and Croaia prisoners in 1992.

In a tribunal statement, Chief Prosecutor Louise Arbour said she wants to speed up justice and free up the tribunal's limited resources for more senior suspects.

In line with a policy of concentrating investigations on senior suspects, "I de-

cided it was appropriate to withdraw charges against a number of accused," Arbour said.

The decision "was taken in an attempt to balance the available resources within the tribunal and in recognition of the need to prosecute fairly and expeditiously," she added.

Arbour said that the suspects, charged with offenses at two notorious Serbian-run prison camps, were suitable to be prosecuted by authorities in their own

Crewman: 'I could not do anything'

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) —

A rear-seat crewman in a Marine plane that sheared the cable of an Italian ski gondola — killing 20 people — said Friday he struggles every day with the fact he was powerless inside the jet.

Capt. Chandler Seagraves read from a statement at a news conference at the close of a hearing to determine whether he and the other rear-seat crewman should face courts-martial in the tragedy.

"My prayers go out to all those families who are dealing with their losses," Seagraves said. "What I have to deal with every day is the fact that I could not do anything which might have prevented this from happening."

All four crew members were charged under the military principle of shared responsibility. Marine Corps investigators concluded that the EA-6B Prowler, a radar-jamming plane, was flying too low and too fast Feb. 3 on a training route from Aviano Air Base in the Italian Alps.

The two front-seat crewmen face a similar hearing June 15. All four aviators could get life in prison on manslaughter charges if convicted.

Earlier in the day, the final defense witness said the aviators broke a rule on speed and altitude but weren't flying unsafely. Col. George Monarch, the assistant chief of staff of the 2nd Marine Air Wing, said he had flown faster at lower altitudes when a mission called for it.

country.

None of the 14 suspects is in custody in the tribunal's 24-cell holding block, which is already full of indicted suspects awaiting trial.

The decision reduces to 33 the number of indicted suspects still at large in Bosnia. Arbour said she has reviewed all her indictments and has no plans to drop any other charges.

The court didn't drop charges against any alleged senior camp officials.

Jobless rate lowest since '70

By Los Angeles Times
WASHINGTON — The nation's unemployment rate plunged during April to 4.3 percent — its lowest level in 28 years — while the economy again began churning out hundreds of thousands of new jobs, the government reported Friday.

The unexpectedly large decline — from a 4.7 percent jobless rate the previous month — came as the number of new jobs in the economy surged by 262,000, more than erasing a 24,000-job decline recorded in March, which now is regarded as a fluke.

The continuing drop in the unemployment rate — a measure of the unusually tight labor market that has

existed for the past few months — ordinarily might fuel worries that the Federal Reserve soon will increase interest rates to help ward off new inflationary pressures.

However, both economists and financial markets shrugged off that prospect — at least for the Fed's next policy-making meeting, scheduled for May 19 — on grounds that pressures for new wage increases have remained surprisingly mild.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average soared 93 points within a few hours of the release of the unemployment figures. The index closed at 9,055.15 — up 78.47 points from Thursday's level — fol-

lowing three straight days of declines.

In many ways, the current situation seems to be rewriting the economics textbooks. Most economists believe inflation pressures begin to mount automatically when joblessness falls below 5.3 percent. But it has been there for more than a year, with no real inflation threat.

Lyle Gramley, a former Fed policy-maker who now serves as chief economist for the Mortgage Bankers' Association said the combination of solid economic growth, low unemployment and low inflation that now exists is virtually unprecedented in recent memory.

Reno weighs probing Labor chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Janet Reno is working on what officials call a tough decision over whether to seek an independent counsel to investigate unresolved influence-peddling allegations against Labor Secretary Alexis Herman.

Complicating Reno's decision, due Monday, was the fact that, during 150 days of preliminary inquiry, prosecutors and FBI agents have neither corroborated a range of allegations made by a businessman against Herman nor found other evidence to question her actions, Justice Department officials said Friday.

The primary allegation was that, as a White House aide before moving to the Labor Department, Herman took kickbacks for helping a friend's clients.

Some Justice officials recommended Reno request appointment of an outside

prosecutor because the independent counsel law requires that step when she is unable to resolve any specific, credible allegations of federal felonies within 150 days, said department sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Other Justice officials apparently doubted that the remaining unresolved matters were specific and credible enough to require an independent counsel.

Meantime Friday, attorneys for Herman continued to provide information to the department.

Herman has denied any wrongdoing, and President Clinton has expressed confidence in her.

Reno has until Monday to decide whether to accept the recommendation and ask a special three-judge court to select an independent counsel.

Netanyahu rejects U.S. offer for summit

By Los Angeles Times
JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will not attend a Middle East peace summit Monday in Washington, a senior aide said Friday after the Israeli leader and a U.S. envoy failed to agree on American proposals for Israel to make a further West Bank troop with-

drawal.

President Clinton had invited Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to meet with him in Washington. They were to launch talks on a permanent agreement between the two sides. But the invitation was conditioned on both sides first accepting a

U.S. package of ideas to restart their deadlocked negotiations on the next Israeli troop pullback from the West Bank.

Arafat publicly accepted the proposals, and the invitation, in the leaders' separate meetings with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in London last week.

Jet lands safely during hailstorm

From wire reports

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — For an airline pilot, there could hardly be any worse scenario than what Capt. Benton West faced with 91 lives hanging in the balance.

While flying through a storm en route from Atlanta to Chicago, hail smashed the cockpit window of the DC-9 and wind ripped off its nose cone. Passengers and luggage tumbled about the cabin and the AirTran Airlines jet suddenly dropped more than 1,000 feet.

West couldn't tell how fast he was flying and could barely see what lay ahead. Air traffic controllers talked him through his approach Thursday evening to Lovell Field in Chattanooga.

Pay phones costlier in West

The 25-cent pay phone is about to follow the rotary dial into telephone history.

US West announced Friday it's raising the price of a pay phone local call to 35 cents in seven states — Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota, Utah and New Mexico.

Massive bomb plot foiled

ORLANDO, Fla. — Three people linked to a white supremacist were charged with having several fully assembled pipe bombs ready to plant across Florida's tourist capital as diversions for bank holdups, authorities said Friday.

"Central Florida avoided a major disaster," said Patricia Galupo, chief of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms for Florida. "This thing would have gone down as planned if not for a bit of divine intervention."

Fourteen bombs were to be planted along Interstate 4, the major access highway to Walt Disney World, and U.S. Highway 441, ATF investigators said.

Gingrich tax plan assailed

WASHINGTON — Hoping to cast House Speaker Newt Gingrich as jeopardizing the new era of balanced budgets, the Clinton administration is condemning his latest proposal for using half of federal surpluses to cut taxes.

"Mr. Gingrich's spending plans reflect an interesting role reversal where Democrats have remained committed to fiscal discipline while Republicans insist on spending the surplus," said White House budget director Franklin Raines.

Iraq urges nations to defy embargo

From wire reports

UNITED NATIONS — Saying Baghdad sees no chance that sanctions ever will be lifted, Iraq's deputy prime minister said Friday he hopes other countries will ignore the U.N. embargo and resume trading with his country.

Also Friday, the 15-member Security Council formally terminated a foreign travel ban imposed last November on Iraqi officials but which was never enforced because of opposition by France, Russia, China and others.

The diplomatic battle over the ban split the council and triggered last year's confrontation with Baghdad over access to President Saddam Hussein's palaces.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, speaking via satellite to CNN-International's "World Report," said he hoped countries would ignore the seven-year trade embargo.

U.N. envoy may swap jobs

WASHINGTON — Bill Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is likely to be chosen as President Clinton's next energy secretary, Clinton administration officials said Friday.

While Richardson would be giving up one of the most high-profile jobs in U.S. diplomacy — a job that he seemed to relish, given the opportunity for diplomatic trouble-shooting — the energy post could provide the former House member with a stronger platform to pursue higher political office.

Allergy devices recalled

WASHINGTON — The maker of a device used by allergy sufferers to ward off life-threatening emergencies urgently recalled 1 million of the injectors Friday. The government urged people with the devices to check whether their EpiPens and EpiPen Jrs. are defective.

Certain batches of the pen-size injector full of epinephrine may not contain enough of the drug to work during an acute allergy attack, warned Meridian Medical Technologies Inc., which recalled 47 lots sold in the United States and eight other countries.

Musician Eddie Rabbitt dies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Eddie Rabbitt, a country-pop singer who topped the charts with bouncy hits like *I Love A Rainy Night*, has died. He was 56.

A source close to Rabbitt's family, speaking on condition of anonymity, said today that Rabbitt died but had no details. Rabbitt had lung cancer and part of his left lung removed last May.

U.S. sends out another warning to Yugoslavia

By New York Times

WASHINGTON — Fearful that fighting along Yugoslavia's southern border is about to erupt into a full-scale war, the Clinton administration has sent the architect of the Bosnian peace agreement to warn President Slobodan Milosevic of the consequences of the recent violence.

Administration officials said that the American Balkans mediator, Richard Holbrooke, and President Clinton's special representative to the Balkans, Robert Gelbard, will travel to Belgrade this weekend. They will press Milosevic to end the fighting in Kosovo, the southern province of Serbia, which along with Montenegro forms what remains of Yugoslavia.

"Holbrooke and Gelbard will go in with a stiff warning that the United States regards the situation in Kosovo as dangerous not just to Yugoslavia but to all of its neighbors,"

said an administration official involved in American policy in the Balkans who insisted on anonymity. "If Milosevic wants to end Yugoslavia's isolation, he'd better be listening."

It is not clear whether any warning to Belgrade will be enough to prevent the situation in Kosovo from spinning out of control and drawing Albania and other nations in the region into the fighting.

Meanwhile, Milosevic again rejected foreign mediation to end escalating violence in Kosovo, snubbing Western powers on Friday even as they attempted to stiffen punishments for the rump Yugoslavia's repression of ethnic Albanians.

A spokesman for Milosevic dashed last-minute reports that suggested the Yugoslav government, in a bid to avert additional economic sanctions, would reverse itself and accept international referees in negotiations.

Bystander dies in Indonesia unrest

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — President Suharto appealed Saturday for an end to violent campus protests against his three-decade rule and economic hardship after a bystander was killed during a fight between students and police.

Protests continued. About 300 students at the Islamic Teaching Institute in Yogyakarta, 260 miles east of Jakarta, hurled rocks at riot police in clashes around the campus. They were supported

by local residents.

Police responded with baton charges and beat several demonstrators. Witnesses said at least five people were taken away. A rock-throwing student protest was also reported in the city of Bandung.

Moses Gatutkaca, a 41-year-old businessman, became the first fatality of the increasingly confrontational student protests, caught between riot officers and demonstrators in Yogyakarta on Friday.

The Legal Aid Society said Gatutkaca was fatally clubbed by police. Authorities said the circumstances of his death were unclear. His family denied reports that he was a student.

Signalling he feels the country is under control, Suharto left for Cairo, Egypt, for a summit of developing countries, his first trip abroad since November, when doctors warned the 76-year-old leader to relax his schedule.

Pentagon to remove trainers from Indonesia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is pulling 17 U.S. troop trainers from Indonesia and halting an exercise there because of the mounting unrest, a senior Pentagon official said Friday.

"The Department of Defense has decided to termi-

nate this exercise," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The decision was made because of the current situation in Indonesia."

The official stressed the action "should not be interpreted as a protest" by the U.S. government against Indonesia, whose

government has been criticized on Capitol Hill for repressive tactics. He said it was being taken for the troops' own protection and because the Indonesian military has been distracted by widespread rioting.

"This is no time to be conducting a military exercise," the official said.

Lazy courier delivers plenty of mail — to his own home

From wire reports

OSLO, Norway — Bosses are usually thrilled when employees take work home with them. But not the Norwegian Postal Service.

After repeated complaints from one Oslo neighborhood, the Royal Norwegian Postal Service discovered that one mailman had been dumping bags of mail in his basement, the Oslo newspaper Dagbladet reported Thursday. Investigators found about 900 pounds of letters and packages stuffed into a closet.

The culprit, who had worked as a mailman for a short time, was immediately fired and reported to the police, said Petter Sjelstad of the postal service. He was not identified.

None of the missing mail was opened, and most of it was addressed to one of about 400 people at the end of the postman's route, suggesting he was overcome by laziness, the newspaper said.

The letters and packages eventually were delivered to their correct addresses by other postal workers.

Leeza Gibbons gets her star

LOS ANGELES — Talk show host Leeza Gibbons was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"I'm just so incredibly grateful," Gibbons said before Thursday's dedication ceremony that attracted more than 300 people, including Dick Clark and Gibbons' former *Entertainment Tonight* sidekick, John Tesh.

**Faces
'n'
places**

It was the 2,107th star on the Walk of Fame.

Gibbons is host and executive producer of the Emmy-nominated NBC-TV daytime talk show *Leeza*. She also is the host of Paramount's syndicated TV teen smoking special *Smoking: Truth or Dare?* to be broadcast between May 21 and May 30.

Olympic star in alcohol rehab

Olympic gold medalist Oksana Baiul is in alcohol rehab, a year after she wrecked her car — and her fairy-tale image — in a drunken-driving accident.

"This is a positive move for her and by her," her agent, Shelley Schultz, said Thursday by phone from his New York office.

He said the 20-year-old figure skater volunteered to enter a program last week and will stay about a month. He declined to say where Baiul was being treated.

She previously underwent an alcohol education program in New Hampshire as part of a court order related to her Jan. 12, 1997, car crash in Connecticut.

Baiul, once a wisp of a skater who soared to the gold medal for Ukraine at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics, is part of the Champions on Ice tour of 70 cities. She is expected to resume her tour schedule after her rehab stay.

"She's just focusing on her program and we're not bothering her," Schultz said.

Baiul said her rags-to-riches story happened too fast, too soon. "I really didn't understand what happened with me."

Pepsi vs. Coke: This war is real

NEW YORK (AP) — Want a court battle with some real fizz? Try Pepsi vs. Coke.

Pepsi-Cola Co. filed an antitrust lawsuit in U.S. District Court on Thursday, accusing Coca-Cola Co. of monopolizing the sales of fountain soft drinks at restaurant chains and movie theaters.

Pepsi says Coke threatens to yank its product from distributors that also carry Pepsi.

"We think the suit is totally without merit," said Bill Hensel, a spokesman for Atlanta-based Coca-Cola. "It seems that Pepsi would prefer to compete in court rather than in the marketplace. We believe that all facets of the soft drink industry are highly competitive, especially the fountain segment."

Pepsi only recently has positioned itself to challenge Coke's dominance in the fountain segment of the \$55 billion soft drink market.

Coca-Cola leads Pepsi in the overall U.S. soft drink market, with a 43.9 percent market share to Pepsi's 30.9 percent, according to the Beverage Digest/Maxwell Report for 1997.

Fountain sales account for about 27 percent of soft drink sales in the United States. Industry analysts estimate Coca-Cola had 65 percent of that business.

Leaders ice capital bets

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien have made a friendly bet on the National Hockey League Eastern conference playoffs between the Washington Capitals and Ottawa Senators.

The loser has to wear the winner's jersey at some point during next week's summit of the eight largest industrialized nations in Birmingham, England, White House spokesman Barry Toiv said Thursday.

The wager was proposed by Chrétien, a former goaltender on the House of Commons hockey squad, and arranged over the telephone by aides. For Clinton, a golf zealot and armchair fan of most other sports, the bet has sparked a greater interest in hockey.

In The Stars and Stripes

10 years ago

May 9, 1988 — Socialist President Francois Mitterand won a second seven-year term with a resounding victory over conservative Premier Jacques Chirac and pledged to fight what he called anguish and uncertainty in France.

20 years ago

May 9, 1978 — David Berkowitz pleaded guilty to all six "Son of Sam" killings, a yearlong rampage that terrorized New York City.

30 years ago

May 9, 1968 — Sen. Robert Kennedy defeated Sen. Eugene McCarthy in Indiana and Vice President Hubert Humphrey in the District of Columbia in his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, but he said, "It's a long time until August."

40 years ago

May 9, 1958 — Vice President Richard Nixon, who had ignored warnings that his South American tour might cause violence, walked into jeering, rock-throwing demonstrators in Lima, Peru, and challenged them to "hear the truth."

50 years ago

May 9, 1948 — Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands announced that she would transfer responsibility for her royal duties to her daughter, Crown Princess Juliana.

Venus too much for sister Serena

ROME (AP) — Venus and Serena Williams insist they do not have a sibling rivalry.

The two have been playing each other for years in training, but won't say how many times or who usually wins. When they face off for real, as they have twice now on the WTA Tour, it's pretty much a match like any other, the sisters say.

"I guess you might say it's a different situation than what's normal. I wasn't thinking about Serena, though," Venus said after beating her younger sister Friday in the Italian Open quarterfinals.

The 6-4, 6-2 victory on the Foro Italico's red clay put the ninth-seeded Venus into today's semifinals, where she played No. 5 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. The other semifinal paired No. 1 Martina Hingis against 16-year-old Mirjana Lucic.

Venus, 17, improved her professional record against 16-year-old Serena to 2-0, adding to a victory in the second round at the Australian Open in January. They represent the eighth sister vs. sister combination to square off on the WTA Tour.

The sisters paired up later in the day to move into the semifinals of the doubles tournament with a win.

Bulls owner: I'm not out to break up team

CHICAGO (AP) — Brushing aside months of speculation, Chicago Bulls Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf denied that he plans to break up one of the greatest teams in basketball history.

"If we win the championship, I would be inclined to invite everyone back," Reinsdorf said in an interview in Friday's editions of the Chicago Tribune.

"Neither I nor Jerry Krause has ever said — anywhere — that we want to break up the team," Reinsdorf said. "We get accused of saying it. I read it all the time. I hear Spike Lee saying it on the Jay Leno show."

Reinsdorf's comments came after the team's first loss of the playoffs, a 78-76 home-court upset by the Charlotte Hornets, which tied the second-round series.

Michael Jordan said Reinsdorf's comments wouldn't make the team try any harder to win a title.

Bulls regain winning form

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — There was no B.J. Armstrong jumping for joy and yelling at his former teammates as the Chicago Bulls reverted back to being the team of the '90s.

"We realize this is a seven-game series and there is no reason to celebrate," Bulls forward Scottie Pippen said after Friday night's 103-89 win over the Charlotte Hornets that gave Chicago a 2-1 lead in the best-of-7 Eastern Conference semifinals.

Michael Jordan, who scored 27 points, yielded to Pippen when a reporter asked whether Armstrong's antics late in Charlotte's Game 2 upset at the United Center agitated the Bulls.

"They came in and won a big game (Wednesday), but it was a smack in our face," Pippen said of Armstrong's dancing and finger-pointing in front of the

Chicago bench after one of his clutch shots. "We knew coming in here we wanted to establish a defensive game — and especially stop their bench."

Chicago's reserves outscored Charlotte's 29-13, with Armstrong and Dell Curry — the heroes of Game 2 — a combined 1-for-10 for two points.

"I thought it was a game in which we played the most serious game of basketball," Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "There was an intent with this team right from the start of getting on the airplane and coming to this city."

In the only other playoff game Friday night, the Los Angeles Lakers took a 2-1 lead over Seattle with a 119-103 victory.



Montreal's OT reign ends at 14

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Maybe Montreal Canadiens forward Martin Rucinsky was right about the Buffalo Sabres being an average team that wouldn't go far in the playoffs without Dominik Hasek.

After Hasek stopped 46 shots and hung on long enough for Geoff Sanderson's goal 2:37 into overtime for a 3-2 victory over Montreal on Friday night, the Sabres had a simple response: So what?

"We never said we were a good team," Sabres forward Matthew Barnaby said. "We have an average team with a great goaltender. There have been average baseball teams with five great pitchers. They're still part of the team."

The Sabres have a 1-0 lead in the best-of-7 Eastern Conference semifinal series mostly because of Hasek, who was brilliant for 54 minutes before Montreal forwards Turner Stevenson and Vincent Damphousse scored 10 seconds apart with less than six minutes left in regulation. Game 2 will be played Sunday in Buffalo.

In Friday night's other playoff action,

the St. Louis Blues opened their Western Conference semifinal series with a 4-2 victory over the Detroit Red Wings.

The conference semifinals continue tonight with Edmonton at Dallas in the West and Ottawa at Washington in the East. Dallas and Washington each won the first game.

Friday night's game between Montreal and Buffalo was decided when Sanderson grabbed Brian Holzinger's rebound and beat Canadiens goalie Andy Moog with a high wrist shot. It marked the first time in 14 playoff games that the Canadiens lost a game in overtime. Montreal nearly pulled out a victory after coming back from a 2-0 deficit in the third.

Blues 4, Red Wings 2

At Detroit, Jim Campbell scored two third-period goals as St. Louis remained the only unbeaten team in the NHL playoffs.

Todd Gill and Brett Hull also scored for the Blues, who swept the Los Angeles Kings in the first round. Martin Lapointe and Tomas Holmstrom scored for the Red Wings, who are trying to become the first team since 1992 to repeat as Stanley Cup champion.



Devils' head coach Lemaire steps down

From wire reports

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jacques Lemaire, the man who brought a Stanley Cup to New Jersey in 1995 but then saw his team fall surprisingly short of expectations in the three seasons that followed, stepped down Friday as coach of the New Jersey Devils after five years on the job.

Lemaire's resignation came six days after the Devils, in a huge upset, were ousted from the first round of the National League playoffs by the Ottawa Senators. Their defeat, in six games, had immediately led to speculation that Lemaire would step down.

"It was just time," Lemaire said Friday. "You get that feeling. I'm happy with what I've done and that's it."

Cincy's woes mount

CINCINNATI — The NCAA has concluded that the rules violations uncovered in coach Bob Huggins' basketball program are major and deserve more investigation, the University of Cincinnati announced Friday.

The NCAA has sent the university a notice of official inquiry that alleged a lack of institutional control over Huggins' program.

Point guard Charles Williams and forward Ruben Patterson received lengthy suspensions last season for myriad violations of NCAA rules. John Loyer, one of Huggins' top assistants, remains on paid leave because of his involvement in the infractions.

Numerous other violations involving other players occurred over a 16-month period that is the main focus of the NCAA's investigation.

UK coach gets a raise

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Tubby Smith, whose team won the national championship last March in his first season as Kentucky's basketball coach, has a new contract and a raise in salary.

Athletics director C.M. Newton told the school's athletics board Friday that a 7 percent increase will raise Smith's base pay from \$150,000 to \$160,680 a year. Another \$50,000 also was added to the annual endorsement part of the coach's contract, and the contract was extended a year through the 2002-2003 season.

Boggs activated from DL

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Tampa Bay third baseman Wade Boggs, sidelined 18 games with a strained right calf, was activated from the disabled list before Friday night's game against the Baltimore Orioles.

Yanks win eighth straight

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Chuck Knoblauch helped make sure his return to Minnesota wouldn't end in another loss, scoring the go-ahead run and making a key defensive play as the New York Yankees beat the Twins 5-1 Friday night for their eighth straight victory.

The Yankees have won 22 of 24, including nine straight on the road, and extended their major league-best record to 23-6.

Knoblauch, who was frustrated by five straight losing seasons with the Twins and asked to be traded in the offseason, ignored a night-long chorus of boos from the crowd of 22,612. He came into the game hitting a disappointing .241 and was jeered every time he batted or made a play in the field. But the All-Star second baseman went 2-for-5 for his seventh multi-hit game with the Yankees.

Red Sox 14, Royals 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Bret Saberhagen stayed unbeaten and reminded Kansas City fans why they got so upset when he was traded, and Boston had its biggest hit total in eight years as the Red Sox trounced the Royals.

Saberhagen, who won two Cy Young



Awards and a World Series MVP with Kansas City from 1984-91, improved to 5-0.

Orioles 8, Devil Rays 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Eric Davis hit his third homer in two games and Harold Baines snapped a seventh-inning tie with a two-run, pinch-hit single to lead the Baltimore Orioles over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Rangers 6, Indians 3

ARLINGTON, Texas — Juan Gonzalez doubled home the go-ahead run in a three-run eighth inning and the Texas Rangers snapped the Cleveland Indians' six-game winning streak.

Mariners 8, Blue Jays 3

SEATTLE — Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 14th homer and scored four runs and David Segui tied a team record with three doubles, leading Seattle over Toronto.

Angels 5, Tigers 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Matt Walbeck hit a three-run double and Darin Erstad homered as the Anaheim Angels ended a four-game losing streak.

White Sox 5, Athletics 3

OAKLAND, Calif. — Frank Thomas knocked the ball loose from catcher Mike Macfarlane on a collision at the plate in the eighth inning, scoring the go-ahead run as Chicago Sox beat Oakland.

McGwire hits 400th, but Cards lose

By Associated Press

Forget about 62. Mark McGwire will hit higher than 400 this season — home runs, that is.

McGwire became the 26th — and fastest — player to reach 400 home runs, breaking Babe Ruth's record by connecting in the third inning of the St. Louis Cardinals' 9-2 loss to the New York Mets on Friday night.

"When people put my name next to Ruth's name, it still blows me away," McGwire said. "I'm still in awe."

McGwire hit his 400 homers in 4,726 at-bats. The previous best was 4,854 by Ruth, who finished with a then-record 714.

Elsewhere, it was San Diego 3, Atlanta 2; Cincinnati 5, Pittsburgh 3, in 10 innings; Florida 12, Los Angeles 6; Philadelphia 6, Arizona 4; Colorado 7, Montreal 5; Chicago 5, San Francisco 4 in 14 innings; and Milwaukee 4, Houston 1.

Padres 3, Braves 2

At Atlanta, Tony Gwynn, batting .541



in his last nine starts, hit a solo home run to back the strong pitching of Andy Ashby (5-2).

Reds 5, Pirates 3

Cincinnati tied it in the ninth inning, then won it at Pittsburgh on Brook Fordyce's two-run double off Ricardo Rincon (0-1) in the 10th.

Marlins 12, Dodgers 6

At Miami, Jesus Sanchez (2-1) struck out a career-high 10 and singled home the go-ahead run in a six-run fifth as Florida snapped a four-game losing streak.

Phillies 6, Diamondbacks 4

Tyler Green (3-2) struck out a career-high 10 as Philadelphia prolonged Arizona's road woes.

Rockies 7, Expos 5

Pedro Astacio (3-4) won for the first time in seven starts at Olympic Stadium as Colorado had a five-run sixth inning.

Cubs 5, Giants 4

At Chicago, Mark Grace hit a two-run, bases-loaded single in the bottom of the 14th to end a nearly five-hour game.

Brewers 4, Astros 1

At Milwaukee, Mike Hampton (5-1) lost for the first time this season.